St. Thomas More Church

1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003 856-424-3212 • Fax: 856-424-2411 Web Site: http://stthomasmorenj.org/ • E-mail: sthomasmore@comcast.net

Mass Schedule

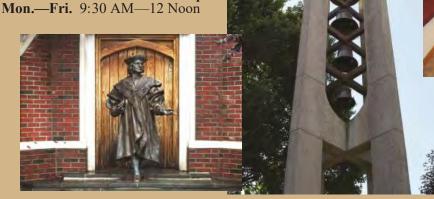
Daily Mass: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM in

the Chapel

First Saturdays: 9:00 AM in the Chapel

Sat. 4:30 PM Sun. 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel





Rite of Reconciliation **Saturday**

3:00—4:00 PM In the Chapel First Fridays after the 9:00 AM Mass

Father Edward Namiotka, Pastor Father Victorino Coronado, In Residence Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation Sister Rosangela Ganau, FMIJ, Catechetical Leader Julie Linn, Music Ministry Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary Sheila Tartamosa, Business Manager



Send all bulletin announcements to: stmsecretary1439@gmail.com by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Parish Trustees	Jeannine Mc Menamin Henry Glover		Worship Altar Servers	Sister Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212
Christian Life/Education	Ť		Church Environment Ch. Art Environment	Committee Committee	
Bereavement	Staff	856- 424-3212	Eucharistic Ministers	Sr. Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212
Consolation Ministry	Ann Marie Lento	856- 344-7454	Lectors	Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann By	
	Jon Lisitski jonll	1@comcast.net	Linen Committee	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217
Faith & Justice Team	Chris Baeckstrom	856-912-7078	Sacristans	Greta Tyrrell Dom Sacca	856-428-2412
Hospital Visitors	Staff & Euch. Ministers	856-424-3212		Dave Bongiovanni	
Intercessory Prayer	Ann Vigrass	856-428-7217		Joe Centonze	
Knights of Columbus	John Galati	856-424-3212	Ushers	Chico Febus	
Marriage Formation	Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa	856-795-1160	Social Development Bridge Groups	Joyce DeMichele	856-424-4008
Parish Rel. Ed. Prog.	Sr. Rosangela Ganau,	856-424-3212	Bridge Groups	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Respect Life	Staff		Parish Festival	Committee	856-424-3212
Rite of Ch. Init. Adults	Sister Ann Byrnes	856-424-3212	Women's Club	Barbara Cerquitella	856-795-7323
Rosary Ministry	Marian Kapischke	856-424-2053		Lorraine Kennedy	856-489-0031
Small Christian Comm.	Sr. Ann Byrnes		Administration		
Spiritual Retreats	John Galati	856-428-7073	House of Charity	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212
St. Vincent de Paul	Chico Febus	856-424-3212	Parish Finance Council	Robert Crawford	856-424-3212
Stewardship	Sheila Tartamosa	856-424-3212	Parish Pastoral Council	Marie Enny	856-751-8893
Welcoming Team	Shirley Kane	856-424-8022			

PARISH MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission (Purpose)

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we the Catholic Community of St. Thomas More respond to our call to holiness.

Vision (Goals)

Empowered by Baptism, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and formed by the Word of God and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we live out our Mission by working together:

- To structure prayerful, vibrant, participatory, Sunday worship experiences.
- To provide Life Long Faith formation for all age levels.
- To care for the young, the old, the sick, the hurting and the needy, both inside and outside our parish.
- To promote faith sharing, prayer, support, learning and listening to one another as a model for nourishing and sustaining our faith community.
- To welcome back, with hospitality, those who have left our faith community.

VISITATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office, 424-3212, if a family member is seriously ill or facing/recovering from surgery and would like to see a priest or receive the Anointing of the Sick. Holy Communion is also available to those who are homebound on an ongoing basis.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please make arrangements for Baptism in advance through the parish office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a preparatory session.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning to marry will attend a marriage preparation program called Living in Love. Call office for appointment.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of formation for full initiation into the Catholic Church. It is open to those never Baptized; those baptized in another faith; and Catholics who have not received First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

For more information, please contact Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate, 424-3212 ext. 104.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades One through Eight - Sunday 9:30 AM—10:45 AM

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

New members are welcome in our community of faith. Please call, 424-3212, or come to the parish

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit hardcopy and/or e-mail by 2 p.m. Monday.

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

St. John Paul II Regional School - (856) 783-3088 Principal: Mrs. Helen Persing



Merciful God,

You call us to daily conversion to your ways of seeing and doing things.

Help us to notice your call.

Help us to overcome any resistance we may have to hearing your call.

Help us to overcome any fear we may have of sharing our faith with others.

This we pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen



"If my people, who are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My Face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will **forgive** their sin, and I will **heal** their land." 2nd Chronicles 7:14

The collection for Sunday, January 14, 2024, was \$5522.00 The budgeted amount was \$8500.

There is no treasure on Earth like the treasure that awaits us in heaven. Isn't that ultimately the most important treasure? Shouldn't that be where our heart lies?

That's why we must practice tithing to show God that our heart lies not in our wealth on Earth, but in a wealth of spirit and faith. Nothing we own is as great as that which we will one day inherit in heaven. This humility is holy to the Lord.

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE. If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 16 - 18, 2024 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Stewardship Corner: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Good Stewardship**

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." -MARK 1:17

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything



in order. Good Stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

From the Pastor's Desk When the Entire World is Upside Down

Dear Parishioners,

I know that Jesus would use a type of **hyperbole**—an intentional exaggeration for effect—at various times in the Gospels. Did he really want us *literally* to tear our eyes out and throw them away (see Mt. 5:29) or to cut our hands off and throw them away (see Mt. 5:30) as stated in the Sacred Scriptures? I don't think so. He most likely said things in this manner to wake people up and have them pay attention to what he had to say. He needed people to recognize his legitimate, definitive authority.

Much was the same with Jesus' miracles. His miracles were often meant to attract people to His message and to show His true authority: "'But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth'—he said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." (Mk. 2:10-11) I suppose in Jesus' time, just as in ours, people wondered who to listen to, who is telling the truth and what authority is legitimate. Many people, then and now, have various things to say, but they certainly don't all carry the same weight. My utmost loyalty and attention goes to the Son of God—hands down!

In today's conversations we too may say some things emphatically to get a point across: "That weighs a ton!" "I'm so hungry that I could eat a horse!" and "I've told you a million times already!"

I guess that there are times when our current culture has become so **de-sensitized** or may even have become so **calloused** to current societal issues that we may need to say something in an unusual or extreme manner to get people's attention once again. Society nowadays is also so careful to be *politically correct* on almost every matter for fear of offending *someone* and being cancelled.

So how do we make people realize that the *breakup of the traditional family* is tragic for society, how [according to the *World Health Organization* (W.H.O.) website] there are 73 *million abortions* worldwide **per year**, how *co-habitation outside of marriage* can have detrimental effects on relationships, how *homosexual sexual acts* are always sterile and empty acts, and how our *addiction-prone society* (alcohol, drugs, sex, pornography, gambling, shopping, etc.) can destroy moral character and ultimately lead to self-destruction, just to name a *few* contemporary societal concerns?

What do I say or do to make people pay attention? Perhaps I need to quote Jesus again:

Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few. (Mt. 7: 13-14)

Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come. (Mt. 24: 42-44)

But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? (Lk. 18:8)

I often wonder just who is listening to and following *Him*?

I express my frustration like this: *The entire world is upside down!* And, in my humble opinion, this seems to be no *exaggeration!*

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

Jan. 27/28

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Coronado	Len	E. Beckman	J. Bland Campbell	
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine Julie	K. Witts	K. Kraemer	A., C., R. Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine/Choir Julie	M. Garber	C. Musso	T. Johnson M. Marsden



After His Baptism, Jesus starts his mission by calling his first disciples: Peter and his brother Andrew and then, James and his brother John. Immediately, all of them, left behind their boat, nets, their work, their

family and followed Jesus. What a trust, what an obedience to Jesus' call! And what humility and trust did Jesus put in these simple men by expressing to them his need of help in order to fulfill the Mission the Father has entrusted to Him!

And we, and me? For us too, like for Jesus' friends, in our ordinary life, every day, every moment Jesus passes by. Yes, He calls me as I am, where I am, as member of a family, as a student, a parent, a worker, or a simple Christian, He needs me too!

Am I ready, every day, TODAY, to abandon my ways of thinking or my worries, or my time, my things to silently listen to Jesus' needs through His Word and through the different calls and needs around me?

Let us pray for one another that the Lord may make of us his special friends as He desires for us to be! Let us have a blessed week with Him!

REMINDERS:

<u>January 20</u>: Saturday, 10:00- 11:30 First Penance Retreat with children in the chapel and Parents Meeting in the Parish Hall.

<u>January 21</u>: Sunday: 9:30-10:45: 8th grade, Confirmation II, Parents-children Meeting #2, in the chapel.

January 27: 7th- 8th graders <u>Confirmation Preparation</u> <u>Class with Fr. Ed Namiotka, our Pastor.</u>

<u>January 28</u>: 7th grade Confirmation I: Parents-Children Meeting #2, in the chapel, 9:30-10:45



Volunteers Needed! Cherry Hill Food Pantry Dates: Tues. February 6 --5:00 pm to 7:30 pm Thursday February 8 —10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday, February 13 — 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm **Thursday, February 15** — 10:00 am to 1:00 pm If you can help, please call Elaine: 856-428-8431

Events around the Area:

Holocaust Remembrance Day Program

at Christ our Light Parish 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 30, 2024 in the Gym

M. Roger Holland in Concert for Black History Month

7:00 PM Saturday, February 3, 2024 Mass at 10:30 AM Sunday February 2024 Christ Our Light.

Divine Mercy Healing Retreat

February 23rd & 24th, 2024 St. John Paul, II Retreat Center, Vineland. Registration limited to 200. www.CamdenDioceseCatholicRenewal.org

Mass for the Sanctity of Life
Catholic Church of St. Mary - 2001 Springdale
Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 - 12:15pm
Are you a new or expectant mother?
Please come to Mass to receive a special
blessing. Questions? (856) 424-1454, ext. 102.

The St. Thomas More Consolation Ministry to the bereaved will meet on Thursday, January 25 at 1:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the St.

Thomas More Parish Hall.

Our mission is to be a source of love, comfort, and support to those who experience loss through death. We work to reach out to those who experience loss, so they will feel the healing comfort of God through this faith community.

We hope you will allow us to walk alongside you through your grief journey as a companion who has seen the same terrain. Join us or call for more information. AnnMarie Lento 856-344-7454, Jon Lisitski 856-210-6466; Marian Kapischke 856-424-2053



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

4:30 PM Gino S. (Maily) Maiale r/b Greg Wolfe

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

8:30 AM Raymond Wegmann r/b Mary & Ann 11:00 AM Anna Hoenisch

r/b Hilda & Marty Block

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

9:00 AM people of the parish

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

9:00 AM Sr. Rita DeFlavia r/b Franciscan Sisters

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

9:00 AM Living and deceased members of Morgan family in Ireland

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

9:00 AM Intentions of Herminia Capistranor

r/b Franciscan Sisters

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

r/b Michael Calingasan

9:30—12noon Adoration in the Chapel

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

4:30 PM Marie Budroe r/b Greta

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

8:30 AM Intentions of Sr. Clare Sabini

r/b sTM Religious Education

11:00 AM Gary Kheel r/b Josephine Welsh

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions January 2024 For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.



† St. Vincent de Paul Members of our St. Vincent de **Paul Society** will be at the doors of the church next weekend to receive your donations of leighbors helping neighbors? non-perishable food or monies to purchase same. They are

particularly asking for Canned vegetables, fruits and, soups; cereals, pasta and tomato sauce; peanut butter and jelly. Thank you for supporting the SVDP in their mission to 'feed the hungry'

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THE

SICK... Kristina Acevedo, Caroline Bancheri, Jim Beaney, Jim Beaney, Jr., Pat Beaney, Joe



Centonze, Ray Chuisano, Elva Clark, Grace Cobin, Alex Colon, Tammy Colon, Joseph Console, Marie Corcoran, Mary Cowan, Catherine Diana, Fr. George Donfurtang, Elizabeth Garber, Eileen Gerie, Eileen Goodwin, Marjorie Graham, Helen Kane, Marion Kapischke, Michael Kapischke, John B. Kennedy, John Lane, Bob Lento, Marie Manalo, Carter Oakley, Tina Petrone, Helen Protzman, Dom Sacca, Carlos Santiago, Teddy Shaffer, Grace Sklencar, Joe Sklencar, Claire Spence, Dick Spence, Dale Strack, Stacia Strack, Michael Suralik, Pat Suralik, Ed Targonski, Sr., Roy Targonski, Ann Vigrass, Joanne Wachman, Sarah Warner, and Nicholas.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES... SPC Jordan Beckman, Captain Patrick J. Bones,

USMC, Major Anthony R. Cosentino, USAF, TSgt.John P. DeYoung, Sam

Houston, USN, Lt. Nicholas G. Iannuzzi, SSgt. Kris Knaup, Capt. Jennifer LaSalce, US Army, Capt. Christopher Mawn, Lt. Jacqueline A. McCabe, PFC Sonny Morrison, Lt. Col. Louis J. Papa, Sisi Tyrrell, USMC, SPC Nicole Williams, and all those serving our country.

Eucharistic Revival Ouotes from Pope Francis

"The food the Lord offers us is different from other food, and perhaps it doesn't seem as flavorful to us as certain other dishes around the world offers us. So we dream of other dishes, like the Hebrews in the desert, who longed for the meat and onions they ate in Egypt, but forgot that they had eaten those meals at the table of slavery." Homily June 19, 2014.

Mall Walk for the Homeless Sunday, February 25, 2024 **Voorhees Town Center** Fun Activities begin at 1:30 PM Walk starts at 2:30 PM Rain, Snow, or Shine Registration is online at www.ihocsnj.org Registration fee is \$25 and includes a mall Walk T-shirt



Please note that we put the following week's Gospel passage in this space so you can prepare all week for Proclamation of the Gospel the following Sunday. Faith Sharing helps ordinary people connect their faith with everyday life experiences

Excerpt from the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 28, 2024 - Mark 1:21-28

Then they came to the Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God. Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

Commentary:

The most important question Mark's Gospel asks is "Who is Jesus?" Jesus taught with authority. Jesus' presence changed situations. Jesus' actions matched his words. The scribes were another story. They knew well the Hebrew Scriptures. They were learned men. However, their words were empty because their actions did not match their words. They did not live what they preached. For us, it is important to live what we preach. Then our teaching will be in accord with God's Will.

Questions for Reflection and Sharing:

- 1. What is God saying to me in this Gospel passage?
- 2. What word or phrase in this Gospel speaks to me?
- 3. What word or phrase in the Commentary resonates with me?



Pro-Life Corner: Use your imagination to see and feel what is really happening behind those sterile clinic doors. If you could see each little handiwork of God and what it looks like when it is being crushed or poi-

soned or starved, you would say, this can't be happening. Civilized people do not do this! The children will not be saved and God's work will not be reverenced without an act of sustained sympathetic imagination. Otherwise, it is out of sight out of mind – just like Auschwitz. It just couldn't be happening and so we act as if it isn't." **John Piper**, Theologian, Author, Pastor and Chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary

Register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter parish experience Sunday and Wednesday evenings beginning February 18 and concluding March 10 at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Williamstown. Each Sunday session will begin at 5:00 and include a light dinner; each Wednesday session will begin at 6:30 and will be virtual. A \$100 application fee covers most of the cost, however, you will be asked to make a good faith offering at the end of the program. For more information contact: 609-741-8012 or wwwme-southjersey.org

Parish Giving announces that contributions statements for the calendar year 2023 will be emailed to those participating in online giving. Look for your statement to appear in your inbox this month.



Called to Defend our Neighbor

God has carefully, tenderly created every person in His own image and likeness, to be in a loving relationship with Himself. From each tiny child knit within a mother's womb, to every person approaching death, all are loved perfectly and completely by God: "It is therefore a service of love which we are all committed to ensure to our neighbor, that his or her life may be always defended and promoted, especially when it is weak or threatened [emphasis added]" (Evangelium vitae)Christ calls us to embrace and uphold the unconditional dignity of every human life. In answering this call, we help to build "a new culture of life, the fruit of the culture of truth and of love" (EV 77). May the Holy Spirit continually renew us as we strive to faithfully defend God's gift of life at all stages.

Do you need a ride to Mass? Are you willing and able to pick up a parishioner for Mass? St. Thomas More Parish is taking names for a new ministry.

Please call the Parish Office if you need a ride. Please call the Parish Office if you are willing to pick someone up for Mass. 856-424-3212.



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